

82 6. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the ion channel is a Kv ion channel.

sub F2 19. (Twice Amended) A method of screening a drug for effectiveness as an ion channel blocker for an ion channel, wherein the ion channel has an external vestibule portion, said external vestibule portion being the portion of the ion channel located between the S5 transmembrane and pore forming region of the ion channel or between the pore forming region and the S6 transmembrane of the ion channel, said method comprising:

D3 contacting a cell having an ion channel with a drug which is an ion channel blocker candidate;

evaluating the cell to determine if the ion channel blocker candidate binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel; and

identifying a drug which binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel as an ion channel blocker.

sub G1 20. (Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the ion channel blocker is an antibody, binding portion of the antibody, probe, or ligand.